KEYBOARD WITH IMPROVED FUNCTION AND EDITING SECTIONS

ABSTRACT

A keyboard having an improved function key section and an improved editing section. A row of keys is located behind the alphanumeric section. The row of keys includes individual predefined command keys. The groupings of the predefined command keys may be made based on the functionality of the keys, their use on common applications or programs, and/or other by other grouping techniques. Further, the keys within each group may be ordered based on chronological order of use, frequency of use, or by a correlation to a graphical toolbar. Each of at least two adjacent groupings of keys behind the alphanumeric region consists of exactly three keys, and each of at least three adjacent key groupings in the entire row consists of exactly three keys. The keys are each capable of functioning as predetermined command keys in a first mode and standard function keys in a second mode. A Function Lock key may be used to convert these keys from their use in one mode as their predefined command keys to another mode where they become standard function keys. These keys are preferably primarily labeled as their command keys and secondarily labeled as standard function keys. The editing section includes a first key cluster having a plurality of keys forming a two dimensional array of cells. At least one key occupies a single cell and a Delete key occupies at least two cells. A key cluster is located behind and spaced from the editing section, and consists of an Undo key and a Redo key.

REFERENCE NUMERALS
INTERNATIONAL STANDARD
    Keyboard 10
        Alphanumeric section 12
            zones ZA0 to ZA4
        editing section 14
            zones ZE0 to ZE2
        numeric section 16
zones ZN0 to ZN6
        function section 18
            zones ZF1 to ZF4
KEYBOARD 20
    housing 22
        front edge 92
        back edge 93
        left edge 94
        right edge 95
    alphanumeric section 24
    editing section 26
        arrow key/first cluster 30
            UpArrow key 34
            DownArrow key 36
            RightArrow key 38
            LeftArow key 40
        second cluster 32
            Home key 42
            End key 44
            Delete key 46
            PageUp key 48
            PageDown 50
    function section 29
        key group behind numeric section 56
            = key 86
            (key 87
) key 88
            BackSpace key 89
        key group behind editing section 52
            Undo key 84
            Redo key 85
        function key row behind alphanumeric/QWERTY section
            function key group 1 behind Alphanumeric section 58
                Help 70
                Find 71
                Desktop 72
            function key group 2 behind Alphanumeric section 60
                New key 73

Open key 74
Close key 75
function key group 3 behind Alphanumeric section 62
Reply key 76
Forward key 77
Send key 78
function key group 4 behind Alphanumeric section 64
Spell 79
Save 80
Print 81
Escape key 54
numeric section 28
Function lock key 100
LED for F-lock key 102
Launch/Additional Command Keys 105